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worker who dies. Indemnities are paid in instalments on terms laid down by arbitration boards with reference to the status of the employee and employer.

Family Allowances

Legislative Decree No. 29 of 12 May 1943 requires each industrial and commercial employer in Lebanon to pay a family allowance to all family heads whom he employs. The amount of the allowance increases with the number of dependants. It rises from £L. 10 monthly for one child up to £L. 35 for five or more children; £L. 10 are also payable in respect of a wife living at home.

Saudi Arabia

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There is no available information indicating the existence of social security legislation in Saudi Arabia.

Syria

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The Syrian Labour Code in Act No. 279 of 11 June 1946 establishes the liability of each employer to pay compensation in the event of employment injury, non-occupational sickness, confinement or dismissal.

Employment Injury

The employment injury provisions apply in general to all employees except agricultural workers not operating modern agricultural machinery; however, cash benefits are 50 per cent. smaller for employees of handicraft undertakings with four to nine workers and 80 per cent. smaller where such undertakings have only one to three workers. Compensation is payable by the employer for traumatic injuries and occupational diseases, the latter being defined in Order No. 2,459 of 22 November 1948. Insurance of his risk is optional for the employer.

Employers in Syria must provide first aid and pay all medical, pharmaceutical, hospital and transport expenses, except that a public hospital within 50 kilometres, if any, must provide victims with free hospital treatment. When incapacity lasts for more than three days, employers must also pay a cash temporary incapacity benefit equal to 50 per cent. of wages below specified maxima. This is payable from the date of the accident until recovery, death or certification of permanent incapacity.

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An injured person who is permanently incapable of carrying on any occupation receives a lump sum from his employer equal to 500 days of wages plus one month's wages for each year he is under 60, down to the age of 18. A lump sum reduced in proportion to remaining working capacity is payable in the event of permanent partial incapacity. In the event of death, one half of the permanent total incapacity benefit is paid if one dependant survives, plus 15 per cent. for each additional dependant up to 100 per cent.; this lump-sum payment is divided equally among specified surviving relatives. A funeral grant of up to one month's wages is also payable. Alien workers must receive the same treatment as Syrian workers if reciprocal arrangements have been made by international instrument. A survivor of an alien worker who is not in Syria at the time of the accident does not qualify for benefit, unless the survivor is a national of a country granting compensation to survivors of Syrian employees in like circumstances.

The Labour Code also authorises the Syrian Council of Ministers to establish a compulsory industrial accident insurance system by decree and to specify the scope and conditions of such a system.

Sickness and Dismissal

After six months of employment, Syrian wage earners are entitled to half a month's leave at full pay and half a month's leave at half pay in case of non-occupational sickness; salaried employees receive a month's leave at full pay and a month's leave at half pay. Women employed in large-scale industry, commerce or a liberal profession for three years receive full pay during 50 days of maternity leave preceding and following confinement, and those so employed for at least one year receive half pay for the same period.

Wage earners paid by the day must be paid a dismissal indemnity of one month's wages for each year of service up to three years, and half a month's wages for each additional year. All other employees receive an indemnity of one month's wages for each year of service. Full dismissal indemnity is payable in the event of death or the marriage of a female employee, and a half indemnity is payable upon voluntary retirement after 15 years of service.

The Syrian Labour Code also authorises the establishment by Ministerial Decree of compensation funds for payment of family allowances to some or all employees, and also provident funds financed by employer and employee contributions for payment of sickness and unemployment benefits and refunds in case of invalidity, old age or death.

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would contribute the remaining quarter of the cost. About half of the State contribution would take the form of hospitalisation which would be largely financed from public funds, including the maintenance of general hospitals by municipalities.

SOCIAL SECURITY BILL FOR LEBANON

A Bill on social security prepared by the Ministry of Labour was receiving consideration by the Lebanese Government in 1950. The purpose of this Bill was to set up an autonomous national social security fund for workers which would eventually pay benefits in respect of employment injury, maternity, sickness, long illness, invalidity, dependants, unemployment and death. Various social charges which the law now imposes on invididual employers would be taken over by this fund.

The proposed scheme would apply on a compulsory basis, in general, to employees of all undertakings in Lebanon except non-mechanised undertakings employing less than five workers and having a capital of less than £L. 5,000. Agricultural workers not operating machinery, family workers and domestic servants would be expressly excluded. Employers would contribute to the fund at an initial rate of 7 per cent. of wages and employees would pay a 4 per cent. rate. The additional revenue needed in each year would be provided by a Government subsidy.

The Bill provides for the introduction of the several types of benefit in three different stages. Payment of the first group of benefits would commence on promulgation of the law. These benefits would include employment injury benefits, family allowances, confinement allowances, and old-age and widows' benefits. To facilitate the financing of old-age benefits, employers would pay to the fund, either in a single lump sum or in instalments over a period of five years, certain amounts for which they were previously liable in respect of dismissal and related indemnities. The second group of benefits, including sickness and long-illness benefits and maternity care, would be introduced at the end of five years. The third group, consisting of invalidity and unemployment benefits, would be brought into force after 10 years.

The practicability of adopting the draft measure has been under study. The economic situation in Lebanon raises some difficult problems in this connection at the present time.

DEVELOPMENTS IN SYRIA

The possibility of introducing certain types of social security legislation and the problems which would be encountered in doing so have

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been the subject of some preliminary statistical investigations and other studies in Syria. The General Federation of Syrian Workers' Unions has urged the Government to institute a social insurance system as well as a scheme of free medical care and medicines.

TURKEY

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Turkey has by now largely completed the enactment of its basic social security legislation, and an important part of the scheme is already in operation. Apart from completion of the administrative organisation of the new measures, important problems of planning which lie ahead include the extension of the scope of persons covered, especially to employees in smaller establishments, who are at present not subject to compulsory social insurance, on the one hand, and the refinement of existing measures, on the other. The latter task will include the removal of such anomalies and inequalities as may appear in the actual application of the legislation, and the further extension of benefits as facilities and circumstances permit.